

The World of Glorantha...

...is a lozenge-shaped bubble of stability floating in an endless sea of hostile, unthinking Chaos. Magic is common, and gods are everywhere; almost everyone gains magic by following the cult of a particular god.

The Gods...are highly specialized. All are bound by the Great Compromise (which saved the world from Chaos long ago) not to directly interfere in mortal affairs. They can act only by giving magic to their followers. Casual worshippers are called *Lay Members*, and have access to weaker (Spirit) magic only. *Initiates* devote their lives to their cult, and may sacrifice for more powerful magic as well. They have other roles and duties in society, too (for example, they can be farmers, hunters, etc.). *Priests* are the magical arm of the cult, leading services and tending to followers. Exemplars of Faith are the *Rune Lords*, physical representatives of the ideals of their cult in the world. Priests and Rune Lords receive many benefits, including allied spirits and Divine Intervention; the chance to call for the direct aid of their god.

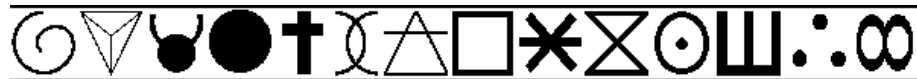
Among the gods of Glorantha are: *Orlanth*, self-titled King of the Gods; *Humakt*, warrior god of Honor and Death; *Chalana Arroy*, the Healer whose followers are sworn to non-violence; *Issaries*, god of traders; *Aldrya*, goddess of plants and elves; *Eurmal* the Trickster; *Yelmalio*, son of the Sun, god of soldiers; the *Storm Bull*, god of frenzied anti-Chaos berserkers; *Kygor Lytor*, the Troll mother-goddess; and *Lhankor Mhy*, god of Knowledge. There are many others.

The Races...of Glorantha are highly diverse. They include *Humans*, whom we all know and love; *Trolls* (Uz), violent Darkness-men who hate Chaos and can eat anything; *Elves* (Aldryami), plant-men who are the mobile part of the vegetable kingdom; *Dwarves* (Mostali), secretive atheistic sorcerers who live underground and worship the World Machine; *Ducks*, the short, squat, waddling comic relief of Glorantha; and *Dragonewts*, incomprehensible creatures who are reborn upon dying and eventually evolve into godlike dragons.

Chaos...threatens the entire universe. All right-thinking folk hate and fear it. Some gods and evil races embrace Chaos, however. These include *Scorpion Men*, hideous giant insect-centaurs with poisonous stings; *Broo*, horribly diseased goat-men who are the epitome of Chaotic evil; and *Ogres*, handsome sharp-toothed cannibals who walk among men and try to breed with unsuspecting human women.

Magic...exists in many forms. Most common is *Spirit Magic*, which is either instant or lasts for five minutes; useful, but not very strong. They are cast using magic points, which regenerate over the course of a day. *Rune* (Divine) *Magic* comes from the gods, and is very powerful but expensive; a permanent part of the worshiper's soul is sacrificed to get it. For Initiates it is one-use. Priests and Rune Lords must pray in a temple to renew their Rune spells.

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